

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P 021700Z DEC 76

FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 828

ZEN INFO/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 557

AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0368

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, FR, CA

SUBJECT: COULD THE FRENCH BE SO FOOLISH?

REF: QUEBEC 341

1. RUMORS OF FRENCH CLOAK AND DAGGER ACTIVITIES IN QUEBEC ARE NOW MAKING ROUNDS OF LOCAL PRESS CORPS. CANADIAN TV JOURNALIST FROM TORONTO, ROBERT REGULY, ASKED ME NOV 29 WHAT I KNEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES IN QUEBEC OF PHILLIPE ROSSILLON WHO HE CLAIMS IS SEDEC RPT SEDEC AGENT WITH LONG HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT IN FRENCH-CANADIAN AFFAIRS. I TOLD HIM FIRST I HAD HEARD OF ROSSILLON WAS IN BRIEF ARTICLE IN NOV 29 ISSUE OF MACLEANS MAGAZINE.

2. ACTUALLY, SENIOR QUEBEC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICIAL MENTIONED TO ME RECENTLY THAT PRESENCE OF XAVIER DENIAU AND PHILLIPE ROSSILLON IN QUEBEC DURING ELECTION IS GOOD INDICATION THAT FRENCH ARE "FISHING IN TROUBLED WATERS." HE WARNED THAT FRENCH ARE LIKELY ATTEMPT UNDERCUT LEVESQUE'S PREDISPOSITION TOWARDS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND TRY TO ORIENT NEW GOVERNMENT TOWARDS FRANCE AND "FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY GOALS."

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EM NEITHER REGULY NOR QUEBECOIS OFFICIAL COULD GIVE PRECISE

INFORMATION ON PURPOSE DENIAU AND ROSSILLON VISITS OR ON THEIR ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, BOTH KNEW THAT DENIAU HAD SEEN LEVESQUE DAY AFTER HIS ELECTION VICTORY (SEE REFTER) AND ASSUMED, AS DID MACLEANS ARTICLE, THAT THEIR PRESENCE AT THIS TIME INDICATES MALEFICENT FRENCH INTEREST IN SEPARATISM.

4. COMMENT: REGULY CLAIMS BOTH FRENCHMEN HAVE LONG CONNECTIONS WITH SEDEC ORGANIZATION AND NOW OPERATE FROM "MATIGNON" UNDER COVER O

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HIGH COMMISSION FOR DEFENSE OF FRENCH LANGUAGE. RCMP, ACCORDING REGULY, ARE FOLLOWING THE FRENCHMEN'S MOVEMENTS WITH CLOSE ATTENTION. GIVEN RENE LEVESQUE'S WELL-PUBLICIZED SUSPICIONS OF FRENCH INTERESTS IN QUEBEC, ONE ASSUMES HE TOO IS WARY OF THESE ELECTION OBSERVERS WITH SPOOKY REPUTATIONS. SHOULD GOF RPT GOF, OR ELEMENTS WITHIN IT, BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO ALLOW REMENANTS OF OLD JACQUES FOCCART ORGANIZATION MOUNT POLITICAL ACTION OPERATION IN QUEBEC, THEY ARE LIKELY REINFORCE QUEBECOIS SUSPICIONS AND UNDERMINE SPECIAL SENTIMENTAL RELATIONSHIP THEY NOW ENJOY WITH QUEBEC NATIONALISTS.  
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